

Underage Drinking Prevention: Town Hall Meetings



JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

This year, hundreds of communities will host THMs across the Nation to mobilize communities around underage drinking prevention.

REASONS TO HOST TOWN HALL MEETINGS:

- Educate communities about the consequences of underage drinking.
- Empower communities to make environmental changes to prevent underage drinking.
- Mobilize communities around underage drinking prevention initiatives at the local, State, and National levels.

CONTACT

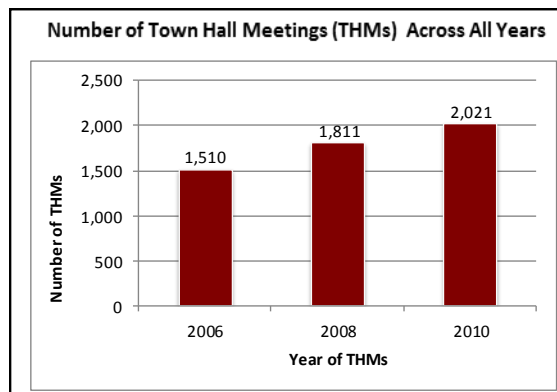
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CHANGING THE PREVENTION LANDSCAPE

Underage drinking is a persistent public health concern that strongly affects the health and safety of our youth, our communities, and our Nation. In 2010, approximately 10 million 12- to 20-year-olds reported using alcohol in a single month. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), as the lead agency for the Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking, is committed to addressing underage alcohol use and abuse by sponsoring biennial national Town Hall Meetings (THMs) to increase community awareness and mobilization around prevention efforts.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS: THE FACTS

- ⇒ The THM initiative was developed through the 2005 National Meeting of the States and was implemented in 2006.
- ⇒ Since the initiative's inception, the number of THMs held has increased with each round.
- ⇒ Youth engagement and participation have been the central focus of THMs. In 2010, youth presented at approximately 75 percent of THMs, with 23 percent being college students.
- ⇒ THMs have been shown to be an effective prevention approach. In 2010, nearly 99 percent of the participating community-based organizations (CBOs) perceived that their event attendees increased their awareness about underage drinking issues.



For more information, please visit the SAMHSA 2012 Town Hall Meeting Web site at www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/townhallmeetings.

ACHIEVING CHANGE THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL PREVENTION

Environmental prevention focuses on changing the environment in order to prevent and reduce alcohol availability and appeal to youth. With the theme of "Getting to Outcomes," the 2012 round of THMs aims to encourage CBOs to use environmental prevention to achieve more outcome-oriented results.



Environmental prevention:
 Changing the environment to reduce
 alcohol availability and appeal

For more information about environmental prevention, please visit the SAMHSA Town Hall Meeting Web site at www.stopalcoholabuse.gov/TownHallMeetings/resources/getting-to-outcomes.aspx.